

KENNEDY  
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CORD

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TOP SECRET 120500Z SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY  
VIA BUNKER CHANNELS  
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER  
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JUST COMPLETED ANOTHER SESSION WITH THE OTHER SIDE. MEETING WAS EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN POLITICAL AND MILITARY BUT WITH INCREASING EMPHASIS ON CEASEFIRE. THEREFORE:

1. YOU MUST URGE THIEU IN STRONGEST TERMS TO THINK MOST CAREFULLY ABOUT WHAT POLITICAL TERMS, ALONG THE LINES HAIG DISCUSSED WITH HIM, HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT.

2. AT RISK OF SOUNDING REPETITIVE HE MUST MAKE ABSOLUTELY MAXIMUM EFFORT TO SEIZE AS MUCH TERRITORY AS POSSIBLE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF KEY POPULATED AREAS IN III CORPS SURROUNDING SAIGON.

AT THIS JUNCTURE I SEE NO CHANCE OF CEASE FIRE IN TIME FRAME SHORTER THAN TWO WEEKS. THUS WHILE THERE IS NO REASON FOR PANIC THERE IS ALSO LITTLE TIME FOR PROCRASTINATION ON PART OF ARVN COMMANDERS.

I NOW PLAN TO ARRIVE SAIGON ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 18 AND PLAN REMAINING THERE OF 19TH AND 20TH. PLEASE ASK THIEU IF AT ALL POSSIBLE TO SET ASIDE SOME TIME EARLY ON THE MORNING OF THE 19TH AND LATE AFTER-NOON OF THE 20TH. I WILL KEEP YOU POSTED AS PLANS CRYSTALIZE.

WARM REGARDS.

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

DOS Review Completed.